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**Mini Lesson**

Intro/ conclusions

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| WRITING LEADS | A lead in a picture book is usually the first sentence. A lead can be several sentences, paragraphs or even chapters. The lead is what "hooks" the reader in and makes them want to read more. Leads are important to the piece of writing. They set the tone and get the piece moving. A poor lead can easily turn a reader off and cause them to put down the writing. A dynamic lead will excite and entice the reader. This is just a small list of books with fabulous leads to use as models. | * Hurricane by David Wiesner (dialogue) * The Art Lesson by Tomie de Paola * When I was Young in the Mountains by Cynthia Rylant * Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes * Encounter by Jane Yolen * The Pumpkin Blanket by Deborah Turney Zagwyn * The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn * Some Birthday by Patricia Polacco * A Pig Named Perrier by Elizabeth Spurr * My Great-Aunt Arizona by Gloria Houston * Weslandia by Paul Fleishman (dialogue) * Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney * My Mama Had a Dancing Heart by Libba Moore Gray |
| WRITING CONCLUSIONS | THE END. Don't think of a conclusion as just "the end" of a story. A good conclusions leaves the reader dreamy about the story and hungering for more of the same. A good conclusion ties up all of the loose ends and satisfies the reader like a good meal. Sometimes a conclusion surprises the reader or jolts the reader, but either way, the reader leaves the book with lingering thoughts. | * The Wednesday Surprise by Eve Bunting (surprise ending) * The Stranger by Chris Van Allsburg (mysterious) * The Sweetest Fig by Chris Van Allsburg (surprise) * The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant (circular) * The Ghost-Eye Tree by Bill Martin Jr. (circular) |